(d) at which places the temporary shelter homes have been established to impart counselling with education and professional education to destitute children and the number of destitute children availing of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) The Government is seized of the problem of destitute children in the country and is therefore implementing various schemes and programmes for the welfare & rehabilitation of these children.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been implementing the following schemes:

(i) "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" which aims at prevention of destitution and withdrawal of children from life on the street and their placement in to national mainstream.

A child helpline, *viz* Childline is also being assisted under the said scheme. Childline is a 24 hours toll free service and any child in distress or any adult on his/her behalf can dial 1098 to obtain assistance for immediate relief and restoration to family or referral to institutions for long-term care. This service is at present available in 83 cities.

(ii) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is providing financial assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice", for establishment and maintenance of children's homes set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 as amended in 2006 which is the primary law for care and protection of children who are in need of care and protection in the country. These homes can be established and run by the State Government itself or in association with voluntary organizations.

Recently, the Ministry has introduced a new Centrally sponsored scheme namely 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme(ICPS)' for care and protection of children who are in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law, in the country.

While there are multiple reasons for destitution of children, no specific data is available on the increase or decrease in the number of such children.

(c) The competent authority has approved the 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' on 26.02.2009.

(d) The details of the organizations being assisted under the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' for running street children centres are available in the Ministry's website- www.wcd.nic.in

Cooked meals in Anganwadis

1785. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to provide hot cooked meals in Anganwadis;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Government of India have issued guidelines on 24th February, 2009 to the State Government Union Territory Administrations to provide hot cooked meal to the children in the age group of 3-6 years in Anganwadis Centres (AWCs) and Mini-AWCs under the integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 22nd April, 2009 has also directed the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to provide hot cooked meal to the children as per guidelines contained in Government of India's letter dated 24th February, 2009, preferably by 31st December, 2009.

(c) Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, an amount of Rs.3045.50 crore has been earmarked for the year 2009-2010 for supplementary nutrition.

Anaemic children in Tamil Nadu

1786.SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven out of every 10 children below the age of five in Tamil Nadu, have iron deficiency anaemia according to the report of the National Family Health Survey;

(b) if, so whether Government has analysed the reasons for such undernourishment among children; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to eradicate such alarming level of malnutrition among children in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) As per National Family Health Survey, (NFHS-3) of 2005-06, 64.2% children (6-59 months) in Tamil Nadu suffer from anaemia.

(b) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem, the determinants of which include food insecurity, female illiteracy, poor access to health-care, safe drinking water, sanitation and poor purchasing power. Early marriages of girls, teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of the new borns, poor breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.

(c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is addressing the problem of under nutrition in children below 6 years through the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS). The ICDS provides a package of six services namely supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition & health education.

The 1CDS programme has since been revamped wherein the nutritional feeding and financial norms have been enhanced. The revised nonns are as under: